From:	Donald Ball
To:	mdove@fec.gov
Subject:	ActBlue
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I understand you're going to be issuing a ruling on treating contributions to political candidates through payment processing sites like ActBlue as matchable or not. While a literal reading of the law could lead one to conclude they're not, common sense would dictate otherwise. If I may:

1. It is more efficient for small campaigns to receive donations through a payment processing site like ActBlue rather than establish their own infrastructure to do so.

2. It is safer for contributers to donate money to small campaigns through a trusted payment processing site like ActBlue, rather than directly to the candidates sites directly. This is something of a subtle point, but I urge to to think about it. As campaign contributions move more and more to the web, there's every incentive for malicious phishers to set up fake candidate web sites and trick people into giving up their credit card numbers and other personal information. As a random contributer, how can I tell which of johndoe2012.com or johndoe2012.org is the real campaign web site? Allowing folks to contribute through trusted payment processing sites like ActBlue mitigates this risk.

Your goal here should be to make it easier and safer for individuals to contribute to political campaigns. I urge you to do so by treating money collected for campaigns via payment processing sites like ActBlue to be treated as direct payments to the candidates, and thus matchable for the purpose of public financing.

- donald